

# Missouri's Drug Scene

Heroin is considered to be widely available in the St. Louis area. Snorting is the most common form of ingestion of heroin in this area, most probably due to the increase in young adult users who are more likely to snort. Users tend to be older (35+), although younger age groups continue to initiate heroin use.

Cocaine is the most common primary drug abuse treatment admission. Crack cocaine is widely available in the St. Louis area and is used predominately by males (60%). There have been increases in female use within the past six years. Crack cocaine users tend to be primarily adults (18 years old and up) and black. Powder cocaine is considered somewhat available in this area and is abused predominately by white and black users.

Marijuana is considered to be the most commonly abused drug in the St. Louis area and continues to be widely available. Hydroponic marijuana has been reportedly increasing. Young adults are the predominate user group. Marijuana users in this area are equally likely to come from all three socioeconomic groups (low, middle and high) and the usage problem cuts across all racial/ethnic groups.

Methamphetamine is considered somewhat available in the St. Louis area although there have been substantial increases in production. Users tend to be young adults (18-30). Most available methamphetamine is produced in "box labs" which are small, mobile clandestine labs located in rural areas. Methamphetamine in this area is packaged in tied-off corners of plastic bags.

Missouri has seen an increase in Ecstasy availability. Use has moved away from the rave scene to the suburbs. OxyContin abuse has also increased. During 1999, in Missouri, 6.6% of those surveyed reported past drug abuse. Also in 1999, 49.5% of high school students surveyed in Missouri had used marijuana within their lifetime. In 2000, there were 2,688 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Missouri. There were 24,072 total marijuana plants eradicated during 2000 in Missouri.

Also during 2000, there were 222 drug abuse deaths and 528 drug mentions in deaths in Kansas City. In St. Louis during 2000, there were 244 drug abuse deaths and 603 drug mentions. During 2000 in St. Louis, there were 283 emergency department drug abuse episodes and 545 drug mentions.

In 2000, 53.5% of the 1,188 Federal defendants in Missouri were charged with a drug-related offenses. The most common drug related charge was drug trafficking. Of the drug related charges the most common drug involved was methamphetamine (34.5%), followed by crack (24.8%), marijuana (16.5%), powder cocaine (15.6%), and heroin (6.7%).

During 2001, in Missouri, there were 46,649 total substance abuse treatment admissions.

*Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy*

## Missouri Women's Council

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There were 22,340 arrests for drug abuse violations in Missouri in 2000.

OFFENSE	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	291	251	239
Forcible rape	497	450	375
Robbery	2,071	1,731	1,764
Aggravated assault	6,512	5,829	5,306
Burglary	4,508	4,368	3,704
Larceny-theft	25,375	23,405	21,283
Motor vehicle theft	3,305	3,462	3,421
Arson	285	311	296
<b>Drug abuse violations</b>	<b>23,288</b>	<b>24,042</b>	<b>22,340</b>
Driving under the influence	16,231	18,259	16,793
Liquor laws	5,948	5,735	5,433
Drunkenness	2,242	2,060	1,785

#### Percent of Missouri High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

DRUG TYPE AND USE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Lifetime Marijuana Use	46.3	52.7	49.5
Current Marijuana Use	23.3	28.0	25.6
Lifetime Cocaine Use	5.9	9.3	7.7
Current Cocaine Use	1.8	3.5	2.7
Lifetime Inhalant Use	10.7	14.7	12.8
Current Inhalant Use	2.2	3.6	3.0
Lifetime Heroin Use	1.0	3.0	2.1
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	7.3	9.1	8.2

#### Juvenile Arrests in Missouri, 1998 - 2000

OFFENSE	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	51	25	39
Forcible rape	89	67	58
Robbery	477	381	365
Aggravated assault	787	696	659
Burglary	1,320	1,175	1,042
Larceny-theft	6,643	6,229	5,469
Motor vehicle theft	939	964	985
Arson	109	138	100
<b>Drug abuse violations</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>2,688</b>
Driving under the influence	253	338	284
Liquor laws	1,107	1,246	1,095
Drunkenness	49	33	38

#### Marijuana eradication, Missouri, 1998 - 2000

	1998	1999	2000
<b>Outdoor Operations</b>			
Plots Eradicated	1,280	674	446
Cultivated Plants Eradicated	52,298	30,376	21,782
Ditchweed Eradicated	45,614,428	73,314,662	30,356,576
<b>Indoor Operations</b>			
Grows Seized	129	109	68
Plants Eradicated	1,931	1,707	2,290
<b>Total Plants Eradicated</b>	<b>45,668,657</b>	<b>32,083</b>	<b>24,072</b>